

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A61B6/12 A61B8/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)  
EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 287 276 A (RITCHIE CAMERON J ET AL) 15 February 1994 (1994-02-15)	1-6,8,10
Y	column 3, line 35 - column 6, line 2 column 10, line 28 - column 12, line 2 column 12, line 58 - column 13, line 18; figure 5	9
Y	US 2003/015207 A1 (HEROLD GEROLD ET AL) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) abstract paragraph '0022! - paragraph '0033! paragraph '0036! - paragraph '0039!	9

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Artikis, T

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB2004/050601

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5287276	A	15-02-1994	US 5251128 A DE 4137652 A1 GB 2250164 A , B JP 4332538 A	05-10-1993 21-05-1992 27-05-1992 19-11-1992
US 2003015207	A1	23-01-2003	DE 10117751 A1	21-11-2002